

Message Text

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01257 010934Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 109162
P 301500Z SEP 73 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0595

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 1257

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY
SUBJ: FUTURE OF EMBASSY TRIPOLI

REF: STATE 194228

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY BEST ANSWERS AT THIS TIME, FORMULATED
AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MY FOUR OFFICERS.

A) NO, LIBYAN ACTIONS TO DATE DO NOT SUGGEST A LARG
DETERMINATION TO FORCE US OUT, EITHER IN THE SENSE OF
BREAKING RELATIONS OR IN TERMS OF CLOSING THIS MISSION.
HAD LARG DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE EITHER OF THOSE OBJECTIVES,
BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE SEIZED SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO
FORCE THE ISSUE. (SUSPECT, WITHOUT HAVING
PROOF, THAT RCC DEBATED THIS POINT AFTER LIBYAN AIR-
LINER SHOT DOWN IN SINAI ON FEBRUARY 21, AND THAT ITS
DECISION WAS TO TAKE FULL REVENGE AGAINST EITHER U.S.
OR ISRAEL WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES, I.E., TO ACCEPT
ANY CONSEQUENT USG DECISION TO CLOSE THIS MISSION, BUT
NOT TO FORCE IT TO CLOSE BY DIRECT PRESSURE. REASONS
FOR THIS LAST PROVISIO, WHICH MIGHT BE CALLED THE PLATE-
GLASS ASPECT OF THE POST, WOULD HAVE BEEN A FEAR OF
U.S. COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST LIBYAN SECURITY OR ECONOMIC
INTERESTS. DOUBT THAT LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS IN
U.S. PER SE FIGURED MUCH -- EXCEPT POSSIBLY THE THOUGHT
SECRET

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01257 010934Z

THAT, SO LONG AS SOVIETS REPRESENTED IN TRIPOLI, SOME
U.S. PRESENCE HERE HELPS PRESERVE LAR'S NON-ALIGNED
IMAGE. LARG IS NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN ITS MISSION AT
WASHINGTON, PARTLY BECAUSE ITS MISSION AT NY OPENS A

BARN DOOR TO OUR COUNTRY ANYWAY.)

B) YES, AGREEING TO PUT ARABIC IN PASSPORTS PROBABLY WOULD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE THIS EMBASSY. TO SAY "WOULD ASSURE US" IS TOO STRONG, AS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT BOTH THE FUTURE AND SOMEONE ELSE'S INTENTIONS. MY ESTIMATE IS THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE, BARRING ANOTHER DISASTER AT ISRAELI HANDS LIKE THE LAA INCIDENT, OR A US/LIBYAN MILITARY CONFRONTATION INVOLVING LOSS OF LIFE, OR OF COURSE A NEW ARAB/ISRAELI WAR. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR OPERATIONS IS ANOTHER MATTER, AND FOR DEPT TO JUDGE, BUT I DOUBT IF THEY COULD BE MUCH IMPROVED IN QUALITY, GIVEN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT HERE. THE VERY FACT OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF ARABIC, IF IT COMES TO THAT, WILL REVEAL THE HOSTAGE ASPECT OF THE POST AND NOT MAKE ITS MISSION EASIER. FOR OTHER REASONS TOO I WOULD IN FACT EXPECT INCREASING OPERATING DIFFICULTIES -- BUT NOT TO THE POINT, WHATEVER IT IS, WHERE WE CONSIDER OPERATIONS IMPOSSIBLE OR COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL. LARG HARASSMENT IS JUST THAT, AND WE CAN CONTINUE TO "OPERATE" SO LONG AS WE GET FRESH BLOOD.

2. AS REFTEL RECEIVED TODAY, HAVE NOT OBTAINED LATEST READING FROM ANY DPL COLLEAGUES ON THEIR ESTIMATES OF LARG INTENTIONS TOWARD CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS. CAN SAY FROM RECENT CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL ESTIMATE IS THAT UNITY WITH EGYPT IS OFF, SO WE ARE ALL STUCK HERE, REGRETTABLY. ON PASSPORT ISSUE, OUR CLOSEST ALLIES, IF THEY CAN BE CALLED THAT IN THIS CONTEXT, ALL TEND TO THINK WE HAVE PUT UP A MANGNIFICENT BUT QUIXOTIC FIGHT AGAINST THE INEVITABLE. THEIR PRESENT WORRY IS THAT RUMORS COME TRUE AND THE NEXT SLICE OF THE SALAMI WILL BE A DEADLINE FOR PRINTING FOREIGN PASSPORTS IN ARABIC. FEW DOUBT THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN BEFORE LONG, IN WHICH CASE THE USG WILL LOOK LESS QUIXOTIC,--BUT NO MORE THAN AN
SECRET

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01257 010934Z

EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED THAN BEFORE (UNLESS WE START PRINTING IN ARABIC.).
JOSIF

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, CONSULATES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL01257
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-1643
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730964/abqcekzh.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 194228
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF EMBASSY TRIPOLI
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005